



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Mayor, YMCA announce summer youth partnership
Classes, gym equipment will relocate to City's Coleman Center

CANTON, Ohio - Mayor William Healy announced Wednesday that the City of Canton will partner with the YMCA of Central Stark County to provide youth programming at the Edward "Peel" Coleman Center in southeast Canton. The partnership includes a number of daytime summer activities that will begin July 13th and run for five consecutive weeks.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for the City and the YMCA to provide Canton youth safe and enjoyable activities throughout the summer," Mayor Healy said. "This partnership also allows us to expand our programming here at the Coleman Center, further strengthening our commitment to young people in the community."

Both the YMCA and the City will coordinate parts of the summer youth program, which is called the "Summer Fun and Enrichment Club." City staff will lead groups of seventh- through ninth-grade students while the YMCA facilitates all first- through sixth-grade classes.

"With the temporary closing of the downtown YMCA, there was a concern that there may not be enough summer programming for children this year," said Tim Shetzer, C.E.O. of the YMCA of Central Stark County. "By working with the City, we were able to find a solution that will offer truly rewarding opportunities for young people. Not only will the program be fun for those participating, but it will also promote educational growth and prepare children for the upcoming school year."

Summer activities for youth include swimming trips, arts and crafts classes, and other educational activities. The City will collect a \$60 fee from participants that will be used to subsidize the operating costs of the program.

Also announced were the YMCA's plans to move exercise equipment from their downtown location to the Coleman Center so that members will be able to continue their workout routines nearby. Other equipment, such as table games and supplies, will also be relocated.

In addition, the YMCA will occupy a number of offices at the Center, from which they will run several year-round programs for area youth - including a basketball program in the fall.

For more information about the upcoming summer youth program (as well as all programs held at the Coleman Center), residents can call the Canton Youth Department at (330) 489-3350 or visit www.cantonohio.gov/youth. Interested parents can register their children in person at the Coleman Center, which is located at 1400 Sherrick Road SE. The cost for the summer program is \$60 per child.